

**Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program Activities  
Monthly Report to the  
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)  
December 2017**

**Waste Disposal and Transportation**

- The fourth quarter (July – September 2017) transportation report for fiscal year (FY) 2017 is available at <http://www.nnss.gov/pages/programs/RWM/Reports.html>
- Update from previous months' reports – In July 2017, the EM Nevada Program received a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permit modification granted by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) that allows for the construction of a new mixed low-level waste (MLLW) cell at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Construction started mid-September 2017 and is scheduled to continue through February 2018. Excavation of the cell is complete, and the installation of the leachate liner began early November 2017. The replacement cell is projected to be operational by late winter or early spring 2018. (please see December 2016 – November 2017 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information).
- Update from previous months' reports – Erwin, TN, generator: In October 2017, the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) received and approved the generator's corrective actions to all observations and Findings. The generator completed corrective actions to prevent recurrence, and RWAP has closed the observations and Findings. The EM Nevada Program lifted the generator's suspension and is requiring all previously approved profiles be resubmitted for review and approval by the NNSS Waste Acceptance Review Panel before shipments may resume to the NNSS. (please see July 2016 - November 2017 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)

In October 2017, NDEP issued a Notice of Alleged Violation to DOE (National Nuclear Security Administration) as a result of the activities associated with the issue above. Specifically, the NNSS accepted 93 containers of waste from the generator and disposed of them in accordance with LLW disposal practices. It was determined after the disposal, that the waste actually contained a hazardous component (chromium). Chromium containing waste must be disposed in a RCRA-permitted disposal cell. DOE met with NDEP in November 2017 to identify what happened and discuss potential corrective actions. (please see November 2017 NSSAB Monthly Report for more information)

- Update from previous months' reports - Oak Ridge, TN generator (second generator): The facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. The generator submitted a draft corrective action plan (CAP) which RWAP provided comments. The final CAP is awaiting submittal by the generator. There has been no change in status. (please see August - November 2017 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information).
- Update from previous month's report – West Valley, NY generator: The facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. Once the RWAP report is submitted, the generator will have 30 days

to respond to the Finding. There has been no change in status. (please see November 2017 NSSAB Monthly Report for more information).

- In November 2017, RWAP conducted the following facility evaluation:
  - Pantex, TX generator: This was a tabletop facility evaluation that resulted in two Findings. Once the RWAP report is submitted, the generator will have 30 days to respond to the Findings.
- In December 2017, RWAP will conduct one facility evaluation.
- In December 2017, approximately 190,925 cubic feet of LLW, MLLW, and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.

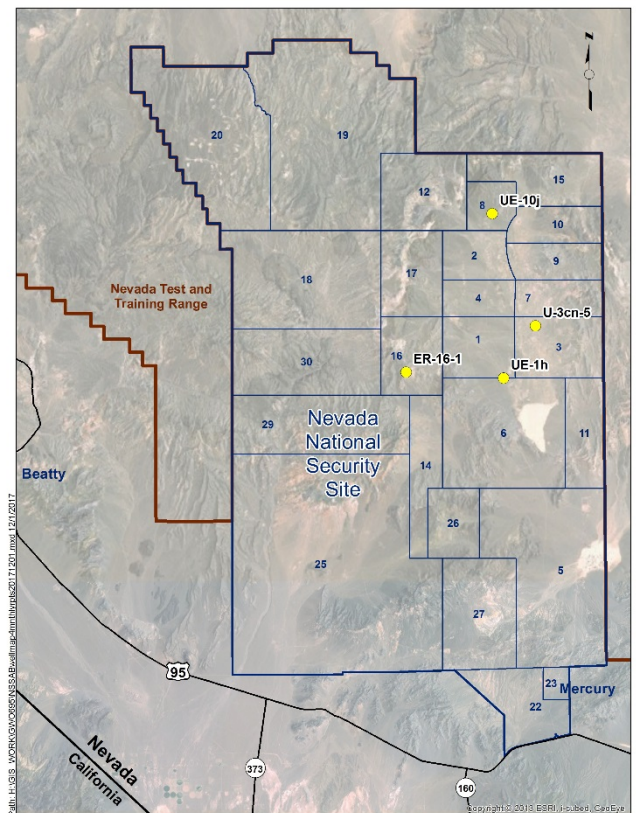
## **Underground Test Area (UGTA)**

### ***Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat***

Sampling at wells UE-1h and U-3cn-5 was completed in November 2017. Sampling at well UE-10j will be conducted in December 2017.

### ***CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain***

Comments from NDEP on the Flow and Transport Model document were received in November 2017; response development will continue in December 2017. Sampling at well ER-16-1 was completed in November 2017.



## **Post-Closure Monitoring**

### ***Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites***

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include Corrective Action Sites (CASs) where post-closure inspections and maintenance are performed in accordance with closure requirements. Required repairs and maintenance identified in the annual inspections will be performed throughout fiscal year 2018. Annual inspections were performed in November 2017 and will be completed in December 2017.

### ***RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites***

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance are performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. Maintenance was performed in November 2017. The quarterly and semi-annual inspections will be conducted in December 2017.

## **Soils**

### ***CAU 413, Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion***

CAU 413 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. The Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) was approved by NDEP in June 2017. Field work continued in November 2017 and will continue in December 2017. Waste shipments will begin in January 2018 or before.

### ***CAU 414, Clean Slate III Plutonium Dispersion***

CAU 414 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. The CADD/CAP was submitted to NDEP in November 2017, and a response is expected in December 2017.

### ***CAU 575, Area 15 Miscellaneous Sites***

CAU 575 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In November 2017, development of the Closure Report (CR) continued and will continue in December 2017. The CR is due to NDEP in May 2018.

### ***CAU 576, Miscellaneous Radiological Sites and Debris***

CAU 576 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Development of the CADD and corrective action alternatives and cultural resource documentation continued in November 2017 and will continue in December 2017.

## **External Affairs:**

- NSSAB:
  - Hosted an educational session on *Emergency Management at the NNSS* in Las Vegas, NV – November 8, 2017
  - Hosted a Full Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV – November 8, 2017
  - Hosted a Community Analysis Committee meeting for work plan item #7 in Las Vegas, NV – November 29, 2017
- Publications:
  - Ongoing social media campaign – 18 original posts on Facebook, 22 original tweets on Twitter, one video posted to YouTube and 22 photos posted to Flickr
  - Published and distributed updated *Transporting Radioactive Waste to the Nevada National Security Site* fact sheet
- Ongoing exhibits:
  - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room in Las Vegas, Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah, NV, and Pahrump Valley Museum in Pahrump, NV
  - EM kiosks – located at National Atomic Testing Museum Public Reading Room and UNLV Lied Library in Las Vegas, NV
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
  - Conducted an intergovernmental meeting in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB Chair and Vice-Chair in attendance) – November 8, 2017
  - Conducted LLW Stakeholders Forum in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB Chair in attendance) – November 9, 2017

- Participated in EM HQs Intergovernmental meeting in San Antonio, TX – November 14-16, 2017
  - Participated in Connecting Hands: Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures (CHOLLA) education group meeting – November 15, 2017
  - Presented at Nuclear Waste Management Forum in Nashville, TN – November 27-29, 2017
- Outreach:
  - Provided 130 Operation Clean Desert activity books, five Operation Clean Desert CDs and four Operation Clean Desert teacher's guides to James Gibson Elementary School
- Planned activities for December 2017:
  - Publish *Rainier Mesa External Peer Review Panel* articles
  - Publish UGTA Day in the Life video
  - Publish and distribute updated *Environmental Remediation Work at Tonopah Test Range* fact sheet
  - Host Community Conversations in Tonopah, NV – December 12, 2017